TFW 3763





Docket No. 2334 DIV

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:

Gene Stellon, et al

Serial No.:

09/981,178

Examiner:

Matthew F. DeSanto

Filed:

10/16/2001

Art Unit:

3763

For:

TROCAR SYSTEM AND METHOD OF USE

Commissioner For Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 Mail Stop Amendment

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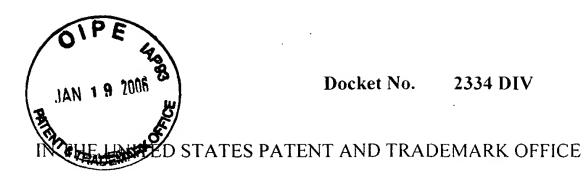
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RESPONSE

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed December 15, 2005 in connection with the above referenced application, please consider the following remarks.

<u>REMARKS</u>

Applicants elect to prosecute the claims of Group I (claims 2-10 and 22-42 which are drawn to trocar with a cannula, obturator, a release mechanism, shield and a latch) with traverse. The remaining claims consisting of Group II (claims 43 and 44 which are drawn to a method of insterting a cannula and obturator into a patient) are canceled without prejudice to continue prosecution of the subject matter in a subsequent application.

Therefore, all claims of Group I now pending in this application, namely claims 2-10 and 22-42, are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early and favorable consideration of this application is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone or personal interview may facilitate resolution of any remaining matters, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below.